

Claims

1. A wireless programmable user interaction system providing user interaction with networked services relating to physical objects that have associated machine-readable tags, comprising:

a portable interaction device in wireless communication with a computer network, the portable interaction device including a portable computing device, with a payload processor and an associated machine-readable tag reader, wherein the portable interaction device generates tag identity information relating to a selected physical object upon operating the machine-readable tag reader to read a machine-readable tag associated with the selected physical object;

an interaction system catalog storing tag format information that correlates the tag identity information with an identity information category to obtain one or more functional payloads operable by the payload processor; and

a payload delivery service that delivers to the payload processor via the wireless communication a selected functional payload to be executed by the payload processor to provide to the user a networked service corresponding to the selected physical object.

2. The system of claim 1 in which the computer network includes a public global computer network and the system further comprises a payload server that provides the selected functional payload via the public global computer network and the wireless communication.

3. The system of claim 1 further comprising a filter that identifies the identity information category of the tag identity information from among plural identity information categories stored in the interaction system catalog.

4. The system of claim 3 further comprising a catalog explorer that provides to the interaction system catalog via the wireless communication information to obtain one or more functional payloads that are operable by the payload processor and to provide networked services that are compatible with the identity information category of the tag identity information.

5. The system of claim 1 further comprising a component that retrieves from the interaction system catalog an indication of plural selectable network

services that relate to the selected physical object, wherein the selected functional payload corresponds to one of the plural selectable network services.

6. The system of claim 5 in which the payload delivery service provides the user with indications of the plural selectable network services and in which the user selects the network service corresponding to the selected functional payload.

7. The system of claim 1 in which the machine-readable tags are bar code tags.

8. The system of claim 1 in which the networked service includes storing at a network location a user annotation relating to the selected physical object.

9 The system of claim 1 in which the portable computing device is generally programmable.

10. The system of claim 1 in which the payload processor includes a browser that executes the selected functional payload.

11. The system of claim 1 in which the payload processor provides execution of the selected functional payload directly by the portable computing device.

12. In a portable interaction device with means for wireless communication with a computer network, the portable interaction device including a portable computing device and an associated machine-readable tag reader, wherein the portable interaction device generates tag identity information upon operating the machine-readable tag reader to read a machine-readable tag, user interaction software stored on the portable computing device and providing user interaction with networked services relating to selected physical objects that have associated machine-readable tags, comprising:

a payload processor operating on the portable computing device;

an interaction system catalog storing tag format information that correlates the tag identity information with an identity information category to obtain one or more functional payloads operable by the payload processor; and

a payload delivery service that delivers to the payload processor via the wireless communication a selected functional payload to be executed by the

payload processor to provide to the user a networked service corresponding to the selected physical object.

13. The device of claim 12 further comprising a filter that identifies the identity information category of the tag identity information from among plural identity information categories stored in the interaction system catalog.

14. The device of claim 13 further comprising a catalog explorer that provides to the interaction system catalog via the wireless communication information to obtain one or more functional payloads that are operable by the payload processor and to provide networked services that are compatible with the identity information category of the tag identity information.

15. The device of claim 12 further comprising a component that retrieves from the interaction system catalog an indication of plural selectable network services that relate to the selected physical object, wherein the selected functional payload corresponds to one of the plural selectable network services.

16. The device of claim 15 in which the payload delivery service provides the user with indications of the plural selectable network services and in which the user selects the network service corresponding to the selected functional payload.

17 The device of claim 12 in which the portable computing device is generally programmable.

18. The device of claim 12 in which the payload processor includes a browser that executes the selected functional payload.

19. A wireless programmable user interaction system providing user interaction with networked services relating to physical objects that have associated machine-readable tags, comprising:

a portable interaction device in wireless communication with a local computer network, the portable interaction device including a portable computing device, with a payload processor, and an associated machine-readable tag reader, wherein the portable interaction device generates tag identity information relating to a selected physical object upon operating the machine-readable tag reader to read a machine-readable tag associated with the selected physical

object;

an interaction system catalog stores tag format information that correlates the tag identity information with an identity information category and related information to obtain one or more functional payloads operable by the payload processor;

a payload delivery service that delivers to the payload processor via the wireless communication a selected functional payload to be executed by the payload processor to provide to the user a networked service corresponding to the selected physical object; and

a payload server communicating with the local computer network via a public global computer network and providing the selected functional payload to the payload delivery service via the public global computer network and the wireless communication.

20. The system of claim 19 further comprising a filter that identifies the identity information category of the tag identity information from among plural identity information categories stored in the interaction system catalog.

21. The system of claim 20 further comprising a catalog explorer that provides to the interaction system catalog via the wireless communication information to obtain one or more functional payloads that are operable by the payload processor and to provide networked services that are compatible with the identity information category of the tag identity information.

22. The system of claim 19 further comprising a component that retrieves from the interaction system catalog an indication of plural selectable network services that relate to the selected physical object, wherein the selected functional payload corresponds to one of the plural selectable network services.

23. The system of claim 22 in which the payload delivery service provides the user with indications of the plural selectable network services and in which the user selects the network service corresponding to the selected functional payload.